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Remarks

Claims 1-6 and 9 are pending. Claims 1 and 4 are the only independent claims.
Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested.

The independent claim 1 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, to more clearly define that it is the **expanded polyurethane resin** that has been **expanded and hardened** about the pre-expanded polymer granules without causing melting or breakdown of said pre-expanded polymer granules that are filled with air (as disclosed originally e.g.: last paragraph of page 9 through the first 5 paragraphs of page 10, describing the *expansion of the polyurethane resin about the pre-expanded polymer granules*; and the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11, describing the *polyurethane condensation reaction occurring without causing the melting or breakdown of the pre-expanded polymer granules that are filled with air* - and that also describes how melting or breakdown does not occur at the condensation reaction temperature between 100 and 140 degrees).

Note further that applicant's arguments relating to patentability previously submitted on September 1, 2006 all refer to the **expanded polyurethane resin** that has been **expanded and hardened** about the pre-expanded polymer granules.

The dependent claim 2 has also been amended to clarify that it is both the isocyanate and the polyisocyanate that have a compound containing active hydrogen, thereby to allow to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is believed that the claims 1-6 and 9 submitted herewith are allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully solicits allowance of pending claims 1-6 and 9.

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Respectfully submitted,



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